

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1400
By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend 1st Lieutenant David Darby for his meritorious military service.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has been fortunate to have the services of a number of highly competent and experienced general officers to lead the Tennessee National Guard; one such exemplary military professional is 1st Lieutenant David Darby; and

WHEREAS, David Darby moved to the Volunteer State in 1976 from Massachusetts when his family settled in Erwin, Tennessee; the third oldest of four children, he was born to Bruce and Hazel Darby, who currently reside in Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, David Darby graduated from Unicoi County High School in 1987, and went on to attend East Tennessee State University for a year-and-a-half; in 1991, when he was twenty years old, he enlisted in the United States Army, and he trained to be a soldier at Fort Benning, Georgia, during the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, David Darby served his first year in the Army in Korea, from June 1991 to June 1992, in the DMZ with the Joint Security Forces along the North Korean border; he served two more years with the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, with the 3rd Battalion 187th Rakkasans; and

WHEREAS, during his three years of service as an enlisted soldier he learned courage, honor, and loyalty to his fellow soldiers; the discipline to work hard and give 110 percent to

everything he did; integrity; and leading by example; all characteristics he would take with him in his later career as an officer; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, when he was 23, he met his wife, Linda, while stationed at Fort Campbell; David Darby separated from the Army in 1994, moved to Columbia, Tennessee, to be with Linda, and returned to school at Columbia State Community College (CSCC); and

WHEREAS, David and Linda Darby were married in 1995, and in January of 1997 their first child, Brandan, was born; David Darby graduated from CSCC in 1997 with an associate's degree, and two years later his daughter, Brooke, was born, and he enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot who sorely missed his military service, he joined the Tennessee National Guard in March of 2000, signing up for Officer Candidate School while at the same time attending MTSU and working full time; his son, Bradley, was born in 2000, and David Darby counts July 15, 2001, the day he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, as one of the greatest days of his life; and

WHEREAS, his first duty assignment was with C Company 230th EN Battalion, a Tennessee National Guard unit based out of Trenton, Tennessee, for which he served as platoon leader; he graduated from MTSU in May of 2003 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, went on to attend the Engineer Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in October of 2003; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Lieutenant Darby volunteered to do a combat tour in Iraq and was deployed from Camp Shelby, Mississippi; in 2005, while he was in Iraq, assigned with E Troop, 2nd Squadron of the 278th Cavalry Regiment at FOB Bernstein, his daughter, Baylea, was born; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Darby's squadron conducted many successful combat missions and helped to stabilize the area in which they operated; he assisted in two successful free Iraqi elections, served with some of the greatest men in the State, and spent time in the smaller villages in his area of operations, making a huge impact on the local populous of Iraq by showing them the benefits of a free and democratic structure; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Darby returned home on leave in July of 2005 to see his baby daughter for the first time, and feeling he had a job to finish, volunteered again to continue to serve on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; he is currently serving stateside at Fort Hood, Texas, in a training support battalion, and is training other National Guard and Reserve units preparing to deploy to Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Darby considers it an honor to serve his country and defend its freedom, and his military service is one of the greatest accomplishments of his life; the events of 9/11 changed his life completely, and he believes it is his duty to stand and fight for America; and

WHEREAS, his military and academic accomplishments notwithstanding, David Darby is most grateful for the love and unending support he has received from his wife, Linda, his unsung hero; no matter how difficult it was for her to be at home alone with three children and to have the baby in his absence, her patriotism and support during his deployment and military career have made it possible for him to help fight the War against Terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Darby is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend 1st Lieutenant David Darby for his meritorious service with the Tennessee National Guard, commend his dutiful military service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, recognize his bravery while fighting to protect the freedoms and principles we all hold dear, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.